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HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR NONHISPANIC STUDENT AT THE MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

When University of Texas at Austin senior Haseeb Abdulah stopped by the business internship fair at his school, he didn't think the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities was the right fit, but he gave it a try anyway.

Abdulah ended up landing a 10-week summer internship with the U.S. Minerals Management Service in Camarillo, Calif. He will be working in the Office of Production, Development and Resource Evaluation, configuring databases and processing and retaining data to make it available to systems and organizations.

"I've never had a full-time job, and I wanted to experience going far away from home for a longer period," said Abdulah, who is a management information systems major and geology minor at UT. "This internship will help me develop a full-time work ethic and learn how to balance my time."

HACU is a national association dedicated to promoting the development of member colleges and universities, and improving access to and the quality of post-secondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students. HACU also endeavors to meet the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise.

But HACU doesn't limit its opportunities to Hispanics only—students of any ethnic background may apply.

"I approached the HACU booth at the internship fair and asked if it was only for Hispanics," said Abdulah, who was born in Houston but is of Indian descent. "When I found out it wasn't, I applied right away."

Abdulah graduated cum laude from Jersey Village High School in Houston, where he participated in the trivia club Quizbowl and the environmental club. At UT, he is an active member of the Muslim Student Association, and he supports his college basketball and football teams.

"The MMS is very excited to have Haseeb on board," said Dr. Lisle Reed, Pacific OCS Regional Director. "We hope that with his enthusiasm and talent, Haseeb will gain valuable work experience."

MMS is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These revenues totaled nearly \$10 billion in 2001 and more than \$120 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

-MMS POCS-

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